

## **Field Day will Highlight MTSU Ag Enhancement Haylage Project Study and New MTSU Farm**

Come join us at a field day on Thursday, September 18, 2008, on MTSU's new farm. The field day will begin at 4 pm CST and will feature the Tennessee Department of Agriculture's Ag Enhancement Program, hay wrapping demonstrations, and a new planting of warm season perennials (Big Bluestem and a wildlife mixture).

One feature of the program will be a presentation by the Commissioner of Agriculture, Ken Givens, who will discuss the highly successful Tennessee Agricultural Enhancement program.

Another feature of the program will be balage production (hay wrapping). Traditionally, Tennessee cattle producers harvest hay for winter-feeding purposes. Most producers have not considered the use of hay wrapping machines due to the initial cost of investment. Many Tennessee cattle producers do not understand the real benefits of feeding haylage because research on animal performance has not been adequately documented in Tennessee. Information will be presented on the costs and benefits of balage production. This research and the field day are sponsored by the Tennessee Agricultural Enhancement Program and MTSU.

Recently, there has been increased interest in warm season perennial grasses. Dr. Patrick Keyser, Dr. Craig Harper and Mitchell Mote with UT Extension will discuss Switchgrass, Big Bluestem and wildlife plots, with actual fields planted this spring.

In addition, there will be tours of the MTSU vegetable garden conducted by Dr. Nate Phillips and the Plant and Soil Science Club, displays of research work conducted by MTSU students, and other activities.

### **Schedule**

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| 4:00 pm | Welcome from Ken Givens, Tennessee Commissioner of Agriculture and Dr. Warren Gill, Director, MTSU School of Agribusiness & Agriscience<br>Overview of Ag. Enhancement |
| 4:30    | Hay wrapping demonstrations<br>Bruce Savage, ACI Distributors and Tim Redd, MTSU Farm Laboratories   |
| 5:00    | Overview of MTSU beef cattle research projects<br>Dr. Warren Gill, Dr. Jessica Carter and Daniel Boyer, MTSU   |
| 5:30    | Switchgrass / Bluestem / Wildlife plot project overview and tour<br>Patrick Keyser, Craig Harper, and Mitchell Mote, UT Extension, and Danny Troup, MTSU               |
| 6:00    | Ribeye steak dinner, time for questions and discussion   |
| 7:00    | Head home!   |

**Important Note:** *Please contact the Rutherford Co. Extension office (898-7710) or Dr. Jessica Carter (615-898-2419, [jgcarter@mtsu.edu](mailto:jgcarter@mtsu.edu)) by Thursday, September 11, if you plan to attend.*

**Directions to MTSU's New Farm (formerly Guy James Farm)**

From MTSU: Exit MTSU on to Rutherford Blvd. – turn Left.

Go 0.4 miles to Halls Hill Pike – turn Right.

Go 4.5 Miles to Guy James Rd. (just past Sharpsville Church of Christ) – turn Left - Go about 0.5 miles to MTSU farm. Turn left just past narrow bridge onto gravel driveway (watch for sign).

From Lascassas, turn left on Brown's Mill Road, go 3-4 miles, then turn right on Guy James Rd., go 1 mile and turn right just before you cross the Stones River Bridge.

For more information contact Dr. Jessica Carter (898-2419), Dr. Warren Gill (898-2404), Tim Redd, (898-2431).